

Iowa Department of Human Services
CHILD CARE CENTER EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE

Name of Center: Notre Dame Catholic School Playgroup **Enrollment:** 17 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 38077

Street: 221 2nd Ave E **City:** Cresco **Iowa Zip** 52136 **County:** Howard

Mailing Address: 221 2nd Ave E, Cresco, IA, 52136

Director's Name: Katie Schmitt **Phone Number:** 563-547-4513

On-Site Supervisor(s): Rachel Bean **E-Mail:** kschmitt@nd.pvt.k12.ia.us

Date(s) of Visit:

Licensing Visit **Unannounced Visit** **Off Year Visit** X **Administrative Change**

LICENSING VISITS

X **New Application** **Re-Application** NA

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 05-27-2022

FIRE INSPECTION X **State** **Local** NA **Is Fire Inspection Approved?** X **Yes** **No** NA

Date Inspected: 04-05-2022

Comments : Compliance on 04/21/22

LICENSE TYPE: **Child Care** X **Preschool (ages 3-5 meets three hours or less per day)**

Financial Type: Profit X Non-Profit NA

Accreditation: Accredited NAEYC NSACA Other X NA

Program Serves: Infants (0-23 mo.) 2 Years X Preschool-Age School-Age

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: Year-round X School-Year Summer Only

HOURS: Year-round School-Year Summer Only

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	0	0	12	0	12
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	FULL license from 09-16-2022 to 10-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost

Date: 09-15-2023

I. IF CURRENT LICENSE IS PROVISIONAL, IDENTIFY THE CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 10/19/22 I made an unannounced licensing visit to Notre Dame Catholic School-Playgroup in Cresco. I met with Leslie Smith, the director and lead teacher for the Playgroup. She has a BS in interdisciplinary studies with an early childhood specialization and a Master of Education in elementary education. She has been employed by Notre Dame since August 2019 and became the director and lead teacher for this program in August 2022. Ms. Smith previously taught from 1994 until 2000 prior to this. Amy Schroeder is the teacher associate in the Playgroup classroom. She has a paraeducator certificate and has been at Notre Dame Catholic School since August 1996. Katie Schmitt is the principal of Notre Dame Catholic School.

The Playgroup operates out of Notre Dame Catholic School. The Playgroup was previously licensed through the Department of Health and Human Services. It closed in March 2020 due to Covid 19 and closed their license in October 2021 because they did not have a teacher for the program. They decided to re-open the program and were given Permission to Open Without a License on 09/06/22.

The Playgroup serves children who are three and four-years-old. The preschool offers a class on Monday and Wednesday or Tuesday and Thursday from 8:15-10:30 am. There are currently 17 children enrolled.

The program operates out of one classroom. Artificial lighting is used. The room is decorated with posters to assist the children with the learning process, such as the alphabet, shapes, colors and numbers. The children's birthdays were posted. There is an area for circle time.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, Lego/blocks, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, art, dramatic play, math, and literacy. Centers were arranged in a manner that allowed easy movement between activities, but it also allowed for clear supervision by staff members. Materials were in good condition. The materials are located at child level so they were easily accessible to the children.

There was a phone in the classroom and emergency numbers with the program's address and phone number were posted. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and an evacuation diagram were posted by the main program door. A daily schedule was posted and a lesson plan was available for review.

Ms Smith is using a variety of resources to develop lesson plans. A book and a craft are documented on a calendar surrounding a theme. An assessment is performed at the beginning of the school year. Another will be performed after the assessment and toward the end of the year. Parent-teacher conferences will be offered in the spring. The program follows Quality Preschool Program Standards and Iowa Early Learning Standards.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections.

A radon test was completed in October 2022. Results were above recommended EPA guidelines. There were two kits

placed in the room and the results were 6.8 pCi/L and 6.7 pCi/L. Results should be under 4.0 pCi/L. Ms. Schmitt has ordered radon kits to perform another short-term radon test and the second test will be completed again this month. If the results remain high, they will do a long-term test.

The annual fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector was on site and is in the classroom on the west wall. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred 04/05/22 with compliance on 04/21/22. Fire inspections must occur every three years.

The center uses bleach and water to sanitize the food tables. I observed the teacher prepare the tables for snack and proper procedures were followed.

There is one sink in the room and procedures were posted. The children use two bathrooms down the hall from the classroom. The girl's bathroom has five toilets and three sinks and the boy's bathroom has three toilets, three urinals and three sinks. Handwashing procedures were posted in both locations.

The Playgroup is not on the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) but follows the guidelines as mandated. The school provides the snack for the children. The parents pay a fee for snack and the school sends home a list of snacks that will be provided to the children. The children eat snack in the classroom. Disposable products are used so dishwashing is not required. A snack calendar was available for review. Snacks were stored according to the NHSPS guidelines.

The program has a fenced in grassy area that they share with the four-year-old preschool program. The area has one piece of climbing equipment with slides. There is also a stationary bouncy car for the children. Woodchips are used for surface cushioning. There is a tree to provide shade.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board outside the classroom. The mandatory reporter, child care consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The Permission to Open Without a License letter should be conspicuously posted until you receive the license. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance.

Staff and children files were reviewed at the time of the licensing visit. I reviewed six children files. They are in good condition.

I reviewed two staff files. They were in good condition. Essentials training has not been completed but two dates have been set up for them to complete the training during school hours within the 90 days.

I reviewed policy and procedures, staff and parent handbooks. Most of the necessary written emergency procedures and policies were present. I could not locate a universal precaution written policy. A sample has been provided. There was not a written policy for policies and procedures for incidents involving minor injuries, minor changes in health status, or behavioral concerns being reported to parent the day of the incident. The center is creating this policy. The professional development policy must be updated and be more specific. A sample has been provided.

Emergency Preparedness Plans have been completed. Please add the emergency phone number sheet from the CCR&R template to your emergency plans.

Staff members were observed to have terrific interaction with the children. Ms. Smith were reading to the children. She was expressive while reading and included the children in the stories by asking them questions. She asked the children about their Halloween costumes. Positive redirection was used when necessary. They used a fun activity to teach the children about shapes and got them up and exercising. Staff members were nurturing to an upset child. They sat with the children during snack and maintained positive conversation with them. The children appeared to have fun and enjoy their time in the program.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The school has a secured entrance and cameras in the hallways.

The children can ride the transit to and from the preschool program.

Ms. Smith states it is nice to have flexibility.

Ms. Smith states the small class size allows for more one-on-one time with the children.

The preschool uses Positive Behavior Interventions Supports (PBIS) strategies for classroom behavior management.

Keystone AEA is a resource for the preschool program.

The Playgroup provides conferences to the parents once each year in the spring.

IV. IDENTIFY THE ASPECTS OF OPERATION THAT FALL BELOW THE STANDARDS REVIEWED:

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is issued. All DHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

In September 2023 an administrative change is being made to name Katie Schmitt, the principal of the school, as the director, and Rachel Bean, the lead teacher of the preschool program, as the on-site supervisor.

*Note: If you are the Child Care Center Director and you feel something is unclear or unjustly cited, please contact your DHS Licensing Consultant to discuss the issue. The child care director may also send a response which will be placed in the licensing file.

*Note: If you are a member of the general public, there may be additional information contained in the public file. You may contact the DHS Licensing Consultant to inquire.